AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification according to the following instructions:

Please replace the paragraph on page 17, lines 12-24 of the as-filed application with the following paragraph. Changes relative to the previous version are marked.

Two plasmids were used with 2 kinds of MMP-8 genes to transfect the hepatic cells: The plasmid pcDNA-MMP-8 which contains the cDNA which encodes for latent MMP-8 (pro-MMP-8) together with the strong viral promoter of cytomegalovirus (CMV) (ATCC Deposit No. PTA 10532); and the plasmid pcDNA3MMP-8 containing the cDNA which encodes for the active MMP-8, together with the CMV promoter. This last one was created through subclonation using pcDNA3 and PETIIa-HNC plasmids, cutting with the restriction enzymes BamHI and XbaI and inserting the PCR product coding for the MMP-8 catalytic domain (which lacks the propeptide and carboxi-terminal fragments), as shown in FIG. 13, the delivery of latent and active MMP-8 genes. Two types of plasmids with the MMP-8 gene were used to be delivered to hepatic cells in culture: 1) PcDNA3-MMP-8, plasmid with the strong viral promoter of the cytomegalovirus (CMV) and the cDNA which encodes for the collagenase in its active form.